



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# LETTERS OF SAMUEL MORSE—1812

BY EDWARD L. MORSE

---

## I

WE shall celebrate in this month of June the one-hundredth anniversary of the declaration of the War of 1812. Much will be written about it and many celebrations will be held commemorative of the American heroes of that war, the last, let us hope, between the two great English-speaking nations. It may, therefore, not be amiss to record the impressions of a young American who was during all that troubled time pursuing his studies in the peaceful art of painting in London; impressions expressed at great length and in forceful language to his parents and friends on this side.

He was a young man of great strength of character, impulsive, and yet of remarkable self-control; enthusiastic in the advocacy of any cause which appealed to his heart and brain, but withal courteous and brave enough to acknowledge his errors when convinced that he had been in the wrong.

While at that time his opinions had no special weight and no influence whatever on the trend of events, they are of interest now as reflecting the convictions of those who really were influential in the political arena of both countries and as having been expressed by a man who in after-years became famous, whose name is now a household word in every corner of the globe.

This young man was Samuel F. B. Morse, one of the best of the American painters of the first half of the nineteenth century, but known wherever the electric spark conveys intelligence as the Inventor of the Telegraph.

Born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, and brought up in a New England hotbed of Federalism, he had gone to England in 1811 thoroughly convinced that the Federalists were the true patriots, and that the administration at Washington under President Madison was all wrong. It did not take him long, however, after his arrival in England, to

make up his mind that he, in common with other New-Englanders, had been in error, and he warmly espoused the cause of the administration and pleaded with his father, who remained a Federalist through the war, to look at things from a broader point of view.

His father, a Congregational clergyman of lofty character, and most of the friends of the young man begged him to leave politics alone and devote himself to his art, fearing for his safety in the enemy's country; but he could not resist the temptation to write many pages, which now have a singular interest, and he seems to have conducted himself otherwise with discretion, for he was in no way molested during his stay in England.

I shall give, with but little or no comment, only such extracts from his letters as have a direct bearing on the events leading up to the war and on the war itself.

The first is from a letter written to a friend in New York on September 17, 1811, and shows him still a good Federalist:

"The accounts lately received from America look rather gloomy; they are thought here to wear a more threatening aspect than they have heretofore done. From my own observation and opportunity of hearing the opinion of the people generally they are extremely desirous of an amicable adjustment of differences, and seem as much opposed to the idea of war as the *better part* of the American people."

The next three extracts are from letters to his parents:

"*November 25th, 1811.*—Distresses are increasing in this country, and disturbances, riots, and so forth, have commenced, as you will see by the papers which accompany this. They are considered very alarming."

"*December 20th, 1811.*—This country appears to me to be in a very bad state. I judge from the increasing disturbances at Nottingham, and more especially from the shocking murders lately committed in this city. A few mornings since was published an account of the murder of a family consisting of four persons, and this moment there is another account of the murder of one consisting of three persons, making the twelfth murder committed in that part of the city within three months, and not one of the murderers as yet has been discovered, although a reward of more than £700, or near \$4,000, has been offered for the discovery. The inhabitants are very much alarmed, and hereafter I shall

sleep with pistols at the head of my bed, although there is little to apprehend in this part of the city; still, as I find many of my acquaintances adopting that plan, I choose rather to be on the safe side and join with them."

"*January 30th, 1812.*—In my next I shall give you some account of politics here and as it respects America. The Federalists are certainly wrong in very many things."

Again writing to his friend in New York on March 15, 1812, he says:

"With respect to politics I know very little, my time being occupied on much pleasanter subjects; I, however, can answer your question whether party spirit is conducted with such virulence here as in America. It is by no means the case; for, although it is in some few instances very violent, still, for the most part, their debates are conducted with great coolness.

"As to the Prince Regent, you have perhaps heard how unpopular he has made himself. He has disappointed the expectations of very many. Among the most unpopular of his measures may be placed the retention of the Orders in Council, which orders, notwithstanding the declaration of Mr. Perceval [the Prime Minister] and others in the ministry to the contrary, are fast, very fast, reducing this country to ruin.

"It is the opinion of some of the best politicians in this country that should the United States either persist in the Non-intercourse Law or declare war this country would be reduced to the lowest extremity. Bankruptcies are daily increasing and petitions from all parts of the kingdom praying for the repeal of the Orders in Council have been presented to the Prince, but he has declined hearing any of them."

Orders in Council were issued by the Sovereign with the advice of the Privy Council in periods of emergency, trusting to their future ratification by Parliament. In this case, while promulgated as a retaliatory measure against Bonaparte's Continental System, they bore heavily upon the commerce of the United States.

The next letters were written to his parents.

"*April 21st, 1812.*—With respect to politics, they appear gloomy on both sides. Since I have been here I have a more favorable opinion of the measures of our Government than I had in America. This country has injured us more than the

Federal papers wish to believe. The Orders in Council are in full operation, and the commercial departments of the papers are filled with names of American vessels *detained* or captured under those orders, while licenses are granted every day to carry on *that trade* direct from this country to France, for which our vessels are seized. This is a fact too well known in this country to be denied and occasions a great outcry against the ministry. You may depend on it England has injured us sorely and our Non-intercourse is a just retaliation for those wrongs.

“Perhaps you will believe what is said in some of the Federal papers, that that measure has no effect on this country. You may be assured the effects are great and severe; I am myself an eye-witness to the effects. The country is in a state of rebellion from literal starvation; accounts are daily received, which grow more and more alarming, from the great manufacturing towns; troops are in motion all over the country, and but last week measures were adopted by Parliament to prevent this metropolis from rising in rebellion by ordering troops to be stationed round the city to be ready at a moment’s warning. This I call an alarming period; everybody thinks so and Mr. Perceval himself is frightened and a committee is appointed to take into consideration the Orders in Council.

“Now when you consider that I came to this country prejudiced against our Government and its measures, and that I can have no bad motive in telling you these facts, you will not think hard of me when I say that I hope our Non-intercourse Law will be enforced with all its rigor, as I firmly believe it is the only way to bring this country to terms, and that if persisted in, will certainly bring them to terms. I know it must make some misery at home, but it will be followed by a corresponding happiness after it.

“Some of you at home will call me a Democrat, but facts are stubborn things and I can’t deny the truth of what I see every day before my eyes. A man, to judge properly of his country, must, like judging of a picture, view it at a distance.

“In the papers you will probably see before this reaches you the declaration of the Prince Regent, in which he promises the repeal of the Orders in Council as soon as Bonaparte shall repeal the Berlin and Milan decrees *expressly and unconditionally*. Recollect the word *unconditionally*. Those

decrees in this way will never be repealed, so that it is but an artifice with the Prince to gain popularity, *which he very much wants.*"

"*May 12th, 1812.*—I write in great haste just to inform you of a dreadful event which happened here last evening and rumors of which will probably reach you before this. Not to keep you in suspense, it is no less than the *assassination of Mr. Perceval*, the Prime Minister of Great Britain. As he was entering the House of Commons last evening a little past five o'clock he was shot directly through the heart by a man from behind the door. He staggered forward and fell and expired in about ten minutes.

"This mention of this shocking affair is but to remove any doubts you might have of the fact. I heard of it last evening about three hours after it was perpetrated, but could not believe it until the particulars were related in the morning papers and *my own eyes* confirmed it. I have just returned from the House of Commons. There was an immense crowd assembled and very riotous. In the hall was written in large letters, '*Peace, or the head of the Regent.*'"

"This country is in a very alarming state, and there is no doubt but great quantities of blood will be spilled before it is restored to order. Even while I am writing a party of Life Guards is patrolling the streets. London must soon be the scene of dreadful events.

"Last night I had an opportunity of studying the public mind; it was at the theater; the play was '*Venice Preserved*; or, *The Plot Discovered.*' If you will take the trouble just to read the first act you will see what relation it has to the present state of affairs. When Pierre says to Jaffier, '*Canst thou kill a Senator?*' there were three cheers; and so through the whole. Whenever anything was said concerning conspiracy and in favor of it the audience applauded, and when anything was said against it they hissed. When Pierre asked the conspirators if *Brutus was not a good man* the audience were in a great uproar, applauding so as to prevent for some minutes the progress of the performance. This, I think, shows the public mind to be in great agitation.

"The play of '*Venice Preserved*' is not a moral play, and I should not ask you to read any part of it if I could better explain to you the feelings of the public. You must not feel anxious respecting me; I can take care of myself;

for, although London will probably be the scene of much bloodshed, I hope I shall have prudence enough to keep clear from danger. If I follow my pursuits without meddling with the affairs of others I shall remain unmolested. So don't feel anxious."

In a letter to his brothers of May 17, 1812, after describing in more detail the assassination, he says:

"The assassin, Bellingham, was immediately taken into custody. He was tried on Friday and condemned to be executed to-morrow morning (Monday, 18th). I shall go to the place to see the concourse of people, for to see him executed I know I could not bear, but the crowd will be immense and you must expect to hear of many lives lost. I should not be surprised if an attempt was made to rescue him. The people are very riotous and this country is in a very troubled state. I will leave a place at the end of this to finish to-morrow after his execution and will then tell you what happened at it. . . . Monday morning, 18th. I went this morning to the execution. A very violent rain prevented so great a crowd as was expected. A few minutes before eight o'clock Bellingham ascended the scaffold. He was very genteelly dressed; he bowed to the crowd, who cried out, 'God bless you!' repeatedly. I saw him draw the cap over his face and shake hands with the clergyman. I stayed no longer, but immediately turned my back and was returning home. I had taken but a few steps before the clock struck eight, and on turning back I saw the crowd beginning to disperse. I have felt the effects of this sight all day and shall probably not get over it for weeks. It was a dreadful sight. There were no accidents."

During all these troubled times Morse was diligently pursuing his studies under Washington Allston, but he again and again, in his long letters to his parents, reverts to matters political, although urged by them not to do so as they cannot agree with him.

"*May 25th, 1812.*—The price of provisions in this country at the present time is enormous; it requires the greatest economy to live in it. The poor are greatly distressed for bread, which is growing dearer and dearer every day. I don't know what will be the consequence if our embargo continues much longer; it distresses the people here six times as much as it does you in America.

"Since Mr. Perceval's assassination there has been no

administration; they are hard put to it to form a new one. It is generally thought and universally wished that the first measure of the new administration will remove the Orders in Council. If so peace will be restored and America, I think, should not make peace with this country on any other terms.

“ From the late papers from America I find that the aspect of affairs looks more gloomy than ever, and that the prospect of war is more and more certain. If war should break out I should try and get to France, for, although I might obtain permission to stay in this country, I should suffer so much and be obliged to hear so much against my native country that I am sure I should retaliate upon them. My friends here shall all be consulted, however, before I take such a step.”

“ *June 16th.*—The administration is at length formed and, to the great sorrow of everybody, the old ministers are re-elected. The Orders in Council are the subject of debate at the House of Commons this evening. It is an important crisis, though there is scarcely any hope of their repeal. If they are not, I sincerely hope that America will declare war.

“ What Lord Castlereagh said at a public meeting a few days ago ought to be known in America. Respecting the Orders in Council, when some one said, unless they were repealed war with America must be the consequence, he replied that *if the people would but support the ministry in those measures for a short time America would be compelled to submit, for she was not able to go to war.* But I say, and so does every American here who sees how things are going with this country, that, should America but declare war, before hostilities commenced Great Britain would sue for peace on any terms. Great Britain is jealous of us and would trample on us if she could, and I feel ashamed when I see her supported through everything by some of the Federal editors. I wish they could be here a few months and they would be ashamed of themselves. They are injuring their country, for it is *their* violence that induces this Government to persist in their measures by holding out hope that the parties will change and that then they can compel America to do anything. If America loses in this contest and softens her measures toward this country she never need expect to hold up her head again.



“ You mustn’t blame me for being free on this subject or think I have turned Democrat; I am not of the sentiments I was in America, for I have come to the knowledge of too many truths since I have been here to be any longer of those partial feelings toward this country. I am of no party, but an American, and as such I feel for my country, and am mortified to find so much paper, ink, and breath thrown away for nothing, or, rather, worse than nothing, in supporting the pride of party. If you could be at this distance and see how they appear here you would throw off all party feelings and be neither Democrat nor Federalist, but an American. . . . I write these sentiments the more freely as this letter goes by Mr. Hurd, and of course cannot be in any danger of being intercepted. I should not dare to write this through the post-office.”

On June 18, 1812, Congress formally declared war. On the 23d, and before this declaration was received in England, the English Government withdrew the odious Orders in Council, but it was too late now to restore peace, although earnest efforts were made to that end.

“ *August 6th, 1812.*—Our political affairs, it seems, have come to a crisis, which I sincerely hope will turn to the advantage of America; it certainly will not to this country. War is an evil which no man ought to think lightly of, but if it ever was just it now is. The English acknowledge it, and what can be more convincing proof than the confession of an enemy?

“ I was sorry to hear of the riotous proceedings in Boston. If they knew what an injury they were doing their country, in the opinion of foreign nations, they certainly would refrain from them. I assert (because I have proof) that the Federalists (as they call themselves) in the Northern States have done more injury to their country, by their violent opposition measures, than even a French alliance could. Their proceedings are copied into the English papers, read before Parliament and circulated through the country; and what do they say of them? Do they say the Federalists are patriots and are firm in asserting the rights of their country? No, they call them *cowards*, a *base set*, say they are *traitors to their country*, and ought to be hanged like traitors. These things I have heard and read, and therefore must believe them.

“ I wish I could have a talk with you, papa. I am sure I

could convince you that neither Federalists nor Democrats were Americans, that war with this country is just, and that the present administration of our country has acted with perfect justice in all their proceedings against this country.

“ You will, perhaps, wonder at my writing in this strain and may think some persons have put these sentiments into my head, but I assure you they have not, for it would have been as easy for a Democrat to convince a Federalist in America as for me to be changed when I first came. I only wish you and all those who are warm Federalists could come and stay in London a month or two. If their party enthusiasm was not in that time a little cooled I would engage to forfeit my right hand. To observe the contempt with which America is spoken of, and the epithets of *a nation of cheats, sprung from convicts, pusillanimous, cowardly*, and such like; these, I think, are sufficient to make any true American’s blood boil. These are not used by individuals only, but on the floor of the House of Commons.

“ The good effects of our declaration of war begin to be perceived already; the tone of their public prints here is a little softer and more submissive. Not one has called in question the justice of the declaration of war; all say, ‘ We are in the wrong and we shall do well to get out of it as soon as possible.’ I have had conversations with strangers who have not known I was an American; they put on long faces and say ‘ We are a ruined nation; America has been too lightly treated by our Government. Unless America will retract after the receipt of our revocation of those foolish Orders in Council, I do not see a single hope for us.’ I always acquiesce.

“ I could tell you volumes, but I have not time and it would, perhaps, be impolitic in the present state of affairs. But I only wish that among the infatuated party men I may not find my father, and I hope that he will be neutral, rather than oppose the war measure. For if he will believe a son who loves him and his country (more) the longer and farther he is from them this war will re-establish that character for honor and spirit which our country has lost through the proceedings of Federalists.”

This strong appeal had no effect on the opinions of the father and friends at home, and the early disasters to the American arms on land only served to confirm them in their opposition to the war and to the Madison administration.

When this information, coupled with entreaties and almost commands to leave politics alone and devote himself solely to his art, were conveyed to the young man he answers still more vigorously on November 1, 1812:

“ Mr. Plummer, of Boston, has just called on me and informs me he is going home in a day or two. By him I send this in answer to four which I have received from you lately. The last was of October 2d, *via* Halifax, accompanying your sermon on Fast Day. The letter gave me great pleasure, but I must confess that the sentiments in the sermon appeared very *strange* to me, knowing what I, as well as every American here does, respecting the causes of the present war. I am sorry that Federalists make so much opposition to it when every one here, Englishmen as well as Americans, not only know that the war is just on our part, but confess it. The only persons *in the world* who assert the contrary are the Federal party in America. A proof of this is that no English publication, to my knowledge, has dared to justify this Government or accuse ours of injustice in declaring war. On the contrary, they throw all the blame on the administration here and say the Americans could not, in *justice* or *honor*, have done otherwise. What can be a clearer proof than the acknowledgment of an enemy as to this fact. I do not merely assert this; every American here knows it.

“ The Federalists generally, as a party, I believe, mean well toward their country, and if they knew the facts would certainly join heart and hand in this war. They are too much blinded by the zeal of party spirit and too much led away by wilful misstatements in the violent party papers to act coolly and weigh matters before they decide. Can they say this Government has not injured us when the Orders in Council were such a flagrant proof of it, by virtue of which they debarred us from trade with France and her dependencies, under pretense that we supplied them with articles of war, while they granted, by means of *licenses*, that same trade with France to their own merchantmen; and not only that, but cloth was made here for the express purpose of exporting to France for the clothing of French soldiers? This is a fact brought before Parliament, so it cannot be denied. This circumstance alone is a sufficient cause for war or we cease to be an independent nation.

“ A great noise appears to be made in America respecting an apprehended alliance with France. It is a bugbear

conjured up by the Federalists, and the inflammatory pieces in the Federal papers have been copied into the English till they almost begin to think there is a foundation for it. I have often blushed for my countrymen on reading some of those violent party essays, and to see how men, for the sake of party, will justify, or rather attempt to justify, this Government through all their base and unwarrantable proceedings. I would ask, because England is at war with France, is it not possible to chastise England for injustice toward us without uniting ourselves with France? Must England treat us worse than her own subjects? Shall she dictate laws to us, and shall we obey for fear of having it said by a few selfish, interested men, engaged mostly in commercial pursuits, that we are uniting with the great tyrant of Europe to destroy the only remaining spot of liberty in the Old World? The object of France is to annihilate this country, that of America to obtain redress from her. Can we not obtain redress without annihilating this country? Great Britain would be very glad to come to our terms long before she was in danger of annihilation.

“You ask in your sermon, ‘How can a Christian pray for success against the only Christian nation besides ourselves?’ I answer, When the administration of this Government act as becomes Christians toward us and ‘do to others as they would be done unto,’ then it will be time for a Christian to ask that question; but while they act in direct contradiction to this divine precept, while they do to others what they would *on no consideration* suffer to be done to them, they deserve no consideration as a Christian nation. The few Christians among them should not screen them from punishment, nor justify them in that overbearing spirit which they uniformly manifest toward every nation with whom they deal.

“The question, I think, might be asked with great propriety if it was the object of our war to pull down the Christian religion. No one will dare to say this is the object. If the majority of this country are unprincipled and are uninfluenced by the laws of justice in their dealings with other nations, and by their unjust measures they provoke a country to war, is that war leveled at the Christian religion? The case, I believe, is plain.

“I could write a volume in favor of this war to show the good effects which will result from it, but I shall only

relate the visible effects of it on this country of which I am an eye and ear witness.

"1. It has raised our country from the degradation it has long laid under in the opinion of Englishmen. Before the declaration of war America was spoken of with the utmost contempt; the papers teemed with abuse and insinuations against her courage. We were called cowards; sprung from a race of convicts; we were proverbial for a weak, inefficient race of beings; our navy they would sneer at as (to use their own expression) below the Chinese. We were called savages, dishonest in our dealings, and, in short, every epithet of opprobrium was exhausted upon us.

"The moment war was declared by us it seemed to come like an electric shock; all was silent in the papers for some weeks with respect to us. What! thought they, is this the cowardly, weak, inefficient race of men we have so often sneered at? They began a little to recover from the shock; some began to say, 'We never thought they would have declared war; it is a sad business; we have provoked them too far.' When they saw the President's proclamation every man read it and was dumb, or else, with eyes turned up and a deep sigh, exclaimed in a woful accent, ' 'Tis too true.' No comments have been made on it in any English paper that I have met with or an attempt made to refute a single charge.

"After a short time spent in this manner they began to resume their taunts, and most particularly against our navy. 'Poh!' said they, 'we shall soon see their frigates in our ports; we'll show them a little English thunder and lightning.' In the midst of these exultations came the news of the capture of the *Guerrière*. If ever a shock on the community was distinctly visible it was in this instance; it would have made a subject for a Hogarth to have seen the woful faces the day the news reached London.

"'Can it be true? What! Americans fight? This Chinese navy take an English frigate? No, it cannot be true.' It was then announced officially, and since that time what has been the tone of the English journals? Why, 'the Americans are like ourselves; they inherit the same spirit as Englishmen; they have acted like brave fellows; Captain Hull is a brave man; has behaved like a brave enemy; never was it known in the naval annals of England that a British frigate ever before struck to an American.' Are not these extorted words of respect?

“ ’Tis the character of Englishmen to be haughty, proud, and overbearing. If this conduct meets with no resistance their treatment becomes more imperious, and the more submissive and conciliating is the object of their imperiousness the more tyrannical are they toward it. This has been their uniform treatment of us and this character pervades all ranks of society, whether in public or private life.

“ The only way to please John Bull is to give him a good beating, and such is the singularity of his character that the more you beat him the greater is his respect for you and the more he will esteem you.

“ 2. Another good effect of the war, I think, will be to convince ourselves that we ought to have a navy and from every consideration I think this will now be the case.

“ We have seen that we have the courage, skill, and power to combat with the boasted *King of the Ocean*, and what power may we not infer we shall have from this superiority? We can then, and not till then, chastise France for her insolence toward us, the Danes, the Tripolitans and Algerines, and, in fact, every nation which can now, from our want of a navy, insult us and commit depredations on our commerce with impunity.

“ England will feel it to her interest to be at peace with us, and will, no doubt, be glad to conciliate us, and what may not be expected from the coalition of two Christian powers united by all the ties of blood, congeniality of disposition, and equal courage and skill?

“ 3. May it not be a means of uniting the two great contending parties in America? This is certainly a great desideratum, for until we have peace at home we can never expect to be powerful abroad. As it is in the human system, when the heart is diseased the extremities lose their capacity to perform their offices and become weak, so it is with the body politic of a country. If at home they are torn and disturbed by internecine quarrels and dissensions they are incapacitated to do anything efficient abroad. And here let me observe on the newspapers of our country, the corrupt fountains of more corrupt information. ’Tis these which keep alive the coals of dissension among us. Until these are reformed, until the editors of each party cease to irritate and inflame each other by continually overreaching each other in extravagant misrepresentation, and endeavoring, in fact, to outlie their opponents, until the sources of political

information become purer—in short, until there is a *third party* formed on the real principles of patriotism, I fear our country will long want a government of sufficient force either to demand obedience at home or command respect abroad.

“After all that I have now said you may perhaps call me a Democrat and say that coming to England has changed my sentiments. If you think from what has gone before and what is to come after that I deserve that name, then I must be content to bear it. My ear shall always be open to truth and my heart to conviction. If I see England abusing us and the Federalists bearing her out in it, when she dare not do it herself, so far I am not a Federalist. And when I see France injuring us and the Democrats endeavoring to hush it up, or to justify her or deny the charge, so far I am not a Democrat.

“The fact is I am of neither party; I have been in England long enough to see that the Federalists are not in the right, and I see Democratic papers from America which, by their gross libels on this country and their violent French spirit, show me they are wrong.

“As for the present war, for reasons which I have given you, I think it a just one and that it will be productive of good effects. As for its tending to destroy this country, I do not believe it and I am far from wishing it. On the contrary, England, next to America, is the country for which I would pray day and night that it might be prospered over all other nations. She is a country which I love with all her faults, and no Englishman would be more sorry to see her sink before any power on earth, for I well know that, were she to fall, not only Christianity, but liberty itself, would fall with her. But that she may be made to feel the injustice of her measures toward us I do sincerely hope, and that she may even be brought to the very verge of destruction unless she gives up the principles on which she laid her Orders in Council.

“England is a proud nation, and much of that pride must be sacrificed if she intends to hold up her head much longer among the nations of the earth.

“Your letters tell me not to meddle at all with politics, but attend wholly to my art. How is it possible for me to remain an unconcerned spectator of events which are happening every day so important to the interests of my coun-

try? My nature must be changed before I can see my countrymen led away by errors which are ruining their country, while I sit by and calmly see them go on and not even make an attempt to set them right. My motive in thus freely writing to you is to let you into the truth and prevent myself the mortification of seeing my relations involved in errors which are doing so much injury to our country. What I write comes from the heart. I feel the importance of this subject and I have long been waiting for an opportunity to write my opinions fully upon it. I have too much prudence to write such sentiments by post, and, unless I had so excellent an opportunity, I should have waited till I could see you. I give this letter into Mr. Plummer's hands and he is to give it into yours.

"If after all I have now written you still think this war is unjust and think it worth the trouble in order to ascertain the truth, I wish papa would take a trip across the Atlantic, and if he is not convinced of the truth of what I have written in less than two months I will agree to support myself all the time I am in England after this date and never be a farthing's more expense to you."

This is rather a remarkable letter to have been written by a young man of twenty-one. He shows himself, in the light of future events, to have been a keen observer and a true prophet, for the results of the war which he predicted were realized:

1. America did thereby gain the increased respect of the European powers.
2. The increase in efficiency of the American navy may be said to date from the War of 1812.
3. The contending parties in America were united for a long time as a result of the war.

The Federalist party achieved such unenviable notoriety because of its unpatriotic stand in this war that it became virtually extinct in the year 1816, when the electoral votes of only three States—Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Delaware—were cast for the Federalist candidate, Rufus King, of New York; and in 1825 the name Federalist disappears from history and a new party appears, as predicted by Morse, the Whig, while the old party previously known as the Republican or Democratic-Republican soon took the name of Democratic.

EDWARD L. MORSE.

[TO BE CONCLUDED]